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AUTHOR	Forbes, Barbara
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ABSTRACT

This resource unit concerns French-African cultures and their influence on other cultures. The materials may be incorporated into Levels 3, 4, and 5 French classes. Topics in the outline include environmental aspects; historical background; and cultural differences expressed in Senegal, Guinee, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Haute Volta, Togo, Dahomey, Niger, Tchad, Cameroun, Republique Centre-Africaine, Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville, and Congo-Kinshasa. A bibliography and list of other materials are included. (RL)

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(This material may be incorporated into any level of French. The material could be investigated in English at the lower levels, and, of course, in French in Levels IV/ V and in some aspects in III. Dora Kennedy)

FRENCH-AFRICAN CULTURES

A Resource Unit
Barbara Forbes - Largo Senior High School

PURPOSE

This unit concerns the French-African Cultures and its influences on other cultures found in other parts of the world.

Included in this paper you will find a suggested outline or perhaps an approach you might wish to develop.

A specific purpose might just be to increase the understanding of other French-speaking cultures of the world.

Student Aims:

1. To become informed about the way of life, history and desires of these cultures - Africa

2. To seek to understand Africa as an emerging Black continent

3. To use where possible materials in the language

4. To incorporate other goals that may be of interest to the students

Teacher's Aims:

1. To help the students in becoming knowledgeable about the history, geography, cultures and present day aspirations of Africans

2. To help students to develop cultural insights about ethnics in our daily environment, and specifically to be able to analyze more intelligently the plight of the African within his own continent and the world

3. To have students learn about African history and geography and culture and how they relate to the influence in the Caribbean and in America

4. To present the opportunity for the refinement of the language skills through meaningful content, including experiences in reading selections from African literature, Haitian literature, literature of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and American Black literature.

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OUTLINE

I. Environmental Aspects

A. Physical Geography
1. Climate
a. equatorial
b. tropical summer rainfall
c. the Sahara and its southern counterparts, the Namib and Jalahari
d. the Mediterranean coastlands
e. East Africa
2. Topographical Divisions
a. Sahara
b. Namib
c. Kalahari
d. Mountains
e. Plateaus
f. Rain forests

B. Racial Composition (Five Distinct Races)
1. Physical characteristics
2. Linguistic Variety (Semitic, Hamitic, Sudanic, Bantu, and Bushman)
3. Others

II. Historical Background

A. Pre-European African Societies
1. Sudanic-Ghanan and Mali trade empires
2. Bantu migration
3. Phoenicians (600 B. C.)
4. Kushites (400 A. D.)
5. Axunites (300 B. C.)
6. Other

B. Arabic Influences
1. Cultural differences southward and along coastal regions (800 A. D. - 1600 A. D.)
2. Economic influences via trade route control and slave trade (1000 - 1600 A. D.)
a. trading patterns between tribes broken
b. tribal patterns broke up families (social effect)
c. tribal traditions destroyed (social effect)
d. Act of Berlin
e. European Influences
a. slave trade
b. minor exploration
c. colonization
d. extensive exploration made efforts and imperialistic competition begin (1850)

III. Cultural differences expressed in Sénégal, Guinée, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Haute Volta, Togo, Dahomey, Niger, Tchad, Cameroun, République Centre-Africaine, Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville, Congo-Kinshasa. (The Congo is now called Zaïre.)

A. Social Structures
    1. Kinship system
    2. Class strata
    3. Education
B. Economic and political development
C. Religions
    1. Paganism
    2. Islamic
    3. Christianity
    4. Other
D. Art
    1. Subject Matter (navel-fertility)
    2. Regional Styles
        a. metal work
        b. paintings
        c. sculpture
        d. mask making
        e. make-up
E. Music and Dance
    1. Ceremonies
        a. birth
        b. planting season
        c. pregnant women
        d. puberty rites (initiation)
        e. death
    2. Warrior
F. African Literature
    1. Traditional literature - oral among tribes (written works were in European languages)
    2. Modern Literature
        a. Prose
            1) Le Sénégal
            Adverture Ambiguë by Cheik Hamidon Kane
            2) Le Mali
            Sous l'Orage by Seydou Badian Komyaté
            3) Le Dahomey
            Un Piège Sans Fin, Le Champ du Lac by Olympe Bhêly-Quénim
            4) Le Cameroun
            Trois Prétendants un Mari by Guillaume Oyono
        b. La Poésie Moderne
            1) le Congo (Zaïre)
            "Le Recueil Epitome" by Tchicaya U'Tamsi
            2) L'Isle Maurice
            "Recueil de Poèmes: Etranger" by Edovard Maunick

3) Le Cameroun
Indépendance, Echos Africains by Charles Ngandé
Sur la Tombe de mon Père by René Philombe
Le Taro Nuptial by Jean-Louis Dongmo
Suprême Essence, La Délivrance Surgira by Nyanai

4) La Côte d'Ivoire
Tout ce que tu m'as Donné by Anoma Kanié
Chant pour un Chef, Poème à Koffi by E. Dervain

5) Le Segal
L'Attente, Intentions, Demain, Ecoliers by Malik Fall

6) Le Mali
Le Rocher en Feuilles by Bouna Boukari Diomara

7) Le Rivanda
Souvenir, Tam-tam, Au Reveil, Présence by Jean-Baptiste Mulabaruka

SUGGESTED BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS FOR USE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS UNIT

Non-fiction

Contemporary Africa - Walter Wallbank

West Africa - Richard Adloff

Continuity and Change in African Culture - W. Bascom and M. Herskovits

Studies in African Linguistic Classification - Joseph H. Greenburg

Africa From A-Z - Robert Kane

Africa: Its People and Their Cultural History - G. P. Murdock

A Short History of Africa - R. Oliver and J. D. Faye

The Races of Africa - C. G. Selignon

A New Africa - Ellen and Attilio Gatti

Anthologie Négro-Africaine - Lilyan Kesteloot

Présence Africaine

Fiction

African Myths and Tales - Susan Feldman

Africa - Fred Burke

Films

"The Variety of Climate and Geography"

"The Variety of Tribal and Linguistic Groups" 5 major linguistic groups
3 major physical types

"Cultural Overlap" (Nigeria)

"Tribal as Opposed to National Loyalty"

"Extensive Arabic Commercial Influence"

"European Influences in Africa" Portugal, Dutch, England, France

"West Africa" 22 m., color. Regional and cultural aspects of Nigeria

"African Continent" 16 m., color. Geography of Africa (Introduction)

Audio-Visual Materials

Slides on West Africa

Television - watch TV guides for programs

Transparencies in French and English

World map, map of Africa, globe

Bulletin board displays on French-African countries

Records

Africa South of the Sahara

Bantu Folk Music

Faces of Africa

Folk Music of Equatorial Africa

Taureg Music of South Sahara

Filmstrips

Living in Central Africa (Zaïre and Guinea Coast) color

Periodicals

Jeune Afrique

African Report

Field Trips

Museum of African Art
316 A Street, N. E.
Washington, D. C.

Smithsonian Museum of Natural History (African Exhibit)

Embassies - See French Guides in County

Voice of America

Speakers

African Embassy representatives

Guest speakers from Radio Africa (tapes are also available)

Projects - Activities

Collection of clothing

Coin collection

Oral and Written Reports - Student Presentation

European Explors
- Vasco da Gama
- James Bruce
- René Caillie
- John Speke
- David Livingston
- Henry Stanley

African and European Writers
- André Breton
- Jean Wagner
- Roger Bastide
- Claude Vauthier

Natural resources of Central Africa
Various tribes
African art and its influences seen in other parts of the world
Music of Haiti, Africa, and British West Indies
Jazz and its development
Architectural designs
Other books or works suggested by the students
Literature

Other

African Art - The University Prints, Cambridge, Mass.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Best, Florence. Music in the Making. Evanston, Ill.: Summary-Birchard Publishing Co., 1960.

Clark, Leon E. The African Past and the Coming of the European. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1971.

Courlander, Harold. Haiti Singing. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University Press, 1939.

Duran, Gustavo. Recordings of Latin American Songs and Dances. Pamphlet. Washington: Music Division, Pan-American Union, 1942

Haywood, Charles. Folk Songs of the World. New York: The John Day Company, 1966.

Herring, Hubert. A History of Latin America. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1965.

Krugman, Lillian and Ludwig, Alice. Little Calypsos. New York: Carl Van Roy Co., 1964.

Landeck, Beatrice. Echoes of Africa. New York: David McKay Co., Inc., 1961.

Nettl, Bruno. Folk and Traditional Music of the Western Continents. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1965.

Perry, Sylvia and Krugman, Lillian. Song Tales of the West Indies. New York: Car Van Roy Co., 1964.

Slonimsky, Nicolas. Music of Latin America. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1949.

Tooze, Ruth and Krone, Beatrice. Music and Literature as Resources for the Social Studies. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1955.

The Golden Book Picture Atlas of the World. New York: Golden Press, 1960, Vol. 1.

New Standard Encyclopedia. Chicago: Standard Education Society, Inc., 1961, Vol. C, H, W.

LEARNING TO DANCE BOOKS

Andrews, Noel. Anyone Can Dance Socially. Durban: Unity Publication, Ltd.

Kraus, Richard and Sadlo, Lola. Beginning Social Dance. Belmont, California: Wadsworth Publishing Co., Inc., 1966.

Lavelle, Doris. Latin and American Dances. London: Sir Isaac Pitman & Son, 1965.

Murray, Arthur. How to Become a Good Dancer. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1959.

White, Betty. Dancing Made Easy. New York: David McKay Co., Inc., 1968.

Youmans, Hohn G. Social Dance. Philadelphia: Temple University, 1969.

RECORDS

Bon Soir Dames: Michele Dejean Group, Creole Songs of Haiti, 10" Folkways

Mamma Send Me: Emerante de Pradines, "Mamman'm Boye'm Pote Cafe," ibid.

Gelique O; Lolita Cuevas, Haitian Folk Songs, 10" Folkways

Charity Bailey, Singing in the Kitchen, 10" Y. P. Greystone Press

Choucoune: The Tarriers, Glory

Panama'm Tombe: Haitian Rhythms, Decca

Drums of Haiti, Folkways

Tiroro - Best Drummer in Haiti, Cook

Destine and Ensemble, Elektra

Meringuel, Cook

AUDIO-VISUAL

Rhythm in Africa. Africa Films, 16 min. hw. Homelife, crafts and ceremonial dances of the Chads in Equatorial Africa. African Films, 1860 Broadway, New York 23 - Folkway Records

AFRICA:

African Dances and Games. New York: Selva, 1607 Broadway. (Odette Blum, 1969: S & R Records No. 2000)

African Music: A Briefly Annotated Bibliography. Edited by Darius L. Thieme, Library of Congress, Music Division, Washington, 1964. The work is divided into two main sections, the first listing periodicals and serial articles, the second listing books. A bibliography of 597 items, with an author and linguistic area index.

Bascom, Wm. R., and M. J. Herskovits, ed., Continuity and Change in African Cultures. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1959. $1.95.
See article by Alan P. Merriam, "African Music."

Dietz, Betty and Michael Olatunji, Musical Instruments of Africa. New York: The John Day Co., 1965, 11 pp., $5.95.
Excellent book for school use; contains recording.

Folk Songs of Africa. Bowmar Records, 10515 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, California, 91601. $1.50.
A good song collection.

Hughes, Langston, First Book of Africa. New York: Franklin Watts, 1960.
Good introductory book for children.

Landeck, Beatrice, Echoes of Africa in Folk Songs of the Americas. New York: David McKay Co., Inc., 1961, 184 pp.
Good for school use; traces the influence of African music on music of North and South America. Good song collection.

Nketia, J. H. Kwabena, African Music in Ghana. Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 1963.
Informative study of a specific West African area. A general introduction to African traditional music as performed in Ghana.

_____. Drumming in Akan Communities of Ghana. London: Thomas Nelson & Sons, Ltd., 1963.
Fascinating study of purposes, techniques, history, and "mystique" surrounding drumming in Ghana.

_____. Our Drums and Drummers. Accra: P. O. Box 4348, State Publishing Corporation, 1968; 48 pp.
Written in elementary-type prose as a child's textbook; filled with excellent photographs of many types of drums. Excellent for school use.

Tracey, Hugh. Chopi Musicians. London: Oxford University Press, 1948.
Standard work.

AFRICA: DISCOGRAPHY

An Anthology of African Music. Barenreiter Musicaphon.

Anthologie de la vie Africaine. Ducretet-Thompson. 320 C 126-128.

Folk Songs of Africa. North Hollywood: Bowmar. (With filmstrip)

Folkways

African Drums: FE 4502
African Music: FW 8852
Africa South of the Sahara: FE 4503
Negro Folk Music of Africa and America: FE 4500
Music of the World's Peoples (in five volumes): FE 4504-8

Maraire, Abraham, African Story-Songs, Seattle, Wash.: University of Washington Press, $5.95. 12" 33-1/3 rpm; monaural. Eight charmingly told and sung story-songs of the Shona people of Rhodesia and Mozambique. Stories are told in English; songs are in original Shona language. Can be used as teaching record.

AFRICA: FILMS

African Musicians. (B & W, Brandon, $90.00).

African Rhythm. (B & W; 17 min.: Radim; $90.00).

Discovering the Music of Africa. (Color; Film Associates; $250.00).

Atumpan. (Color; 42 min.; $400.00; Institute of Ethnomusicology, UCLA).

Rhythm of Africa. (B & W; 20 min.)

First World Festival of Negro Art. (Color; 20 min.)

(Most of the above films can be borrowed from school or public libraries. Both discography and film listings are brief; there are many others available; check records carefully for authenticity. Filmstrips are also available; Schloat has a fine series on Musical Instruments of Africa.)

NEGRO MUSIC USA:

Blesh, Rudi and Harriet Janis. They All Played Ragtime. New York: Oak Co.; $4.45; 1966.
Definitive work on the history of ragtime.

Courlander, Harold. Negro Folk Music, U.S.A. New York: Columbia University Press, 1966. $10.00.
Comprehensive study of Negro folk music in United States; spirituals, game songs, blues, etc.; 43 examples of music.

Cuney-Hare, Maud. Negro Musicians and Their Music. Washington: Associated Press, 1936; $4.00. (Reprint)

de Lerma, Dominique-René, David Baker and Aistin B. Caswell. Black Music Now: A Source Book on 20th Century Black American Music. Bloomington: University of Indiana, 1970.

Feather, Leonard. The Encyclopedia of Jazz. New York: Bonanza Books, 1960, 527 pp.

Garland, Phyl. The Sound of Soul. Chicago: H. Regnary Co., 1969, 246 pp., paper, $2.95.
Discusses modern developments in jazz.

Johnson, James W., and J. Rosamond Johnson. Books of the American Negro Spirituals. Two vol. in one. New York: Viking Press, 1969, pap. $3.95.
Good song collection.

Jones, LeRoi. Blues People. New York: William F. Morrow Co.; 1963;
Excellent; traces development of Negro music in America from slavery to present with emphasis on sociological implications of black music.

Oliver, Paul. The Story of the Blues. New York: Chilton; 1969.

Shapiro, Nat and Nat Hentoff, eds. Hear Me Talkin' to Ya: the Story of Jazz as Told by the Men Who Made It. New York: Dover, 1966.
Black musicians tell how they feel about blues and ragtime.

Southern, Eileen. The Music of Black Americans: A History. New York: W. W. Norton; 1970; 552 pp.; paper $4.45.
Well written; good background for teachers, high school and college classes; extensive bibliography and discography.

NEGRO MUSIC USA: DISCOGRAPHY

Black Spirituals and Art Songs. (Stereo LP album available from Afro-American Music Opportunities Association, Inc., Box 662, Minneapolis, Minn. 55440).

Blue Giraffe, Ltd., 23-80 48 St. L. I. C. New York, N. Y.; (two listings):
Ghetto Reality (Created and recorded by elementary children in Rochester, N. Y. representing experiences of a child's ghetto life.)
Afro-American Music. AA 702; (Demonstration recording by Dr. Willis James; complete text included; 2 LP's.)

Dawson, William, Negro Folk Symphony. Decca 710077

DePaur Chorus. Mercury 90382.

Folkways Records

History of Jazz Series: FJ 2801-11
The Story of Jazz: FJ 7312 (Narrated by Langston Hughes)
Freedom Songs: Selma, Alabama. FD 5594

Still, William Grant, Afro-American Symphony. (The Society for the Preservation of the American Musical Heritage, P. O. Box 4244, Grand Central Station, New York, N. Y. 10017.)